Allocation of wheat to Kerala

1221. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that allocation of wheat to Kerala for PDS has been reduced considerably from June, 2006 to March, 2007;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that Kerala has the food deficit to the tune of 85 per cent and needs the strong TPDS;

(c) the average off take of wheat in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 and whether it has shown a trend in the consumption pattern of Kerala; and

(d) whether considering all these and also the fact of shooting up of wheat price in the open market, Government whould take immediate decision to restore the allocation of wheat to Kerala at the pre-revised level?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The allocation of wheat under TPDS has been rationalized on the basis of each State's average offtake for the last 3 years or the last year's offtake, whichever was lower. However, for Above Poverty Line (APL) category, a 25% cut on this has been imposed in respect of rice consuming States (including Kerala) and Delhi. For Below Poverty Line (BPL) the reduced wheat allocation has been made up by corresponding increase in rice allocation. For APL category also, the State Government can seek allocation of rice in lieu of reduction of wheat allocation. Thus, there has been no change in the overall allocation of foodgrains as per the entitlement.

(c) For Kerala the average monthly offtake of wheat for APL and BPL category during last three years, is given below:

(*in tonnes*)

Category	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Average
APL	10912	14376	21819	15702
BPL	2520	10205	9283	7336

As per policy for rice consuming States, a 25% cut on this was imposed

therefore, APL wheat for Kerala works out to be 11,777 tonnes per month and for BPL, the allocation is 7,336 tonnes per month.

(d) Because of a decline in wheat stocks in Central Pool, *viz-a-viz* the buffer norms, wheat allocation has been reduced for all the States as per policy indicated above, and it is not possible to deviate from the same for any particular State.

Maintenance of wheat stock in Central pool

1222. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the actual stock of wheat in Central pool as on 1st July, 2002 and 1st April, 2004;

(b) the minimum buffer norm during that period;

(c) whether the buffer norm was changed in April, 2005;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) at what stage stock position, preventive steps/contingency measures are taken to maintain a safe minimum level of stock; and

(f) the chronological details of steps taken since 1st April, 2004 to maintain minimum necessary stock?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The stock of wheat *vis-a-vis* buffer norms in Central Pool as on 1st July, 2002 and 1st April, 2004 are as under:—

Figures in lakh tonnes

As on	Actual Stock	Buffer Norms
1.7.2002	410.74	143.00
1.4.2004	69.31	40.00

(c) Yes, Sir.